

Andrew Spiece
StudentsFirst
Senate Education Committee - Testimony
Wednesday, June 22, 2011

My name is Andrew Spiece. I am a member of the StudentsFirst movement and a public school teacher at Brandon High School in Ortonville, MI.

Bills 4625-4628 are necessary to the improvement of schools in the great State of Michigan. Too often great teachers are sent home due to archaic practices that are currently in place. I have seen great teachers leave the school year not knowing whether they have jobs in the coming fall. This is not in the best interest of our students.

At my district, I have gone out of my way to become the best teacher I can and giving my students the best opportunities possible to be competitive in a 22nd century world. I have created a Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program for my students partnering with industries. I have partnerships with Michigan Department of Transportation and General Motors in order to create opportunities for my students. I have with the support of my district started a FIRST robotics program that has given my students scholarship opportunities that were not available prior. 100% of my graduating seniors receive scholarships to college to enter into 22nd century undergraduate programs.

This year I was in danger of being laid off due to the current "Last In First Out" policies. I do not believe that with the hard work I have put in for my students that this is what is best for students in Michigan. It is way more that teachers are held accountable and base decisions on what teachers are doing for students.

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~Andrew Spiece